

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 833
INFO /AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3245
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7441

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (F O R T E X T)

STATE PASS STR FOR STEPHEN LANDE AND MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, HK
SUBJECT: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR: HONG KONG CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) HONG KONG 6869, (B) STATE 135551

HONG KONG TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS REPLIED TO
USG REQUEST FOR BILATERAL FOOTWEAR CONSULTATIONS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: 1. THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS PRESENTS
HIS CIMPLIMENTS TO THE CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE ON IMPORTS OF NON-
RUBBER FOOTWEAR FROM HONG KONG INTO THE UNITED STATES DELIVERED
BY MESSRS. VOORHEES AND MCCAILL TO MR. .W.R. MILLS, DIRECTOR
OF TRADE, 9, 1 JUNE 1978.

2. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CONFIRM THAT IT IS
ALWAYS READY TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS
ON ANY MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND INTEREST. THE HONG KONG
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GOVERNMENT AGREES THEREFORE TO THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON IMPORTS OF NON-RUBBER
FOOTWEAR FROM HONG KONG INTO THE UNITED STATES. THIS AGREEMENT
TO CONSULT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN INDICATION OF A CHANGE
OF HONG KONG'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS RESTRAINTS ON TRADE OUTSIDE
THE FIELD OF TEXTILES, WHICH ATTITUDE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WISHES TOO

KNOW HOWEVER UNDER WHICH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS ON NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR ARE TO BE HELD.

3. AS REGARDS THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE AIDE MEOIRE DATED 1 JUNE 1978, TO FACILITATE PREPARATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WISHES TO STATE THAT IT HAS NO INFORMATION ON THE PROSPECTIVE TREND OF HONG KONG'S SHIPMENTS OF FOOTWEAR TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS NOR ANY PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE PROPORTION OF FOOTWEAR BEING EXPORTED TO THE US THAT IS COMPRISED OF SHOES PARTLY MADE IN TAIWAN AND KOREA AND FINISHED IN HONG KONG. AS REGARDS THE TYPES OF FOOTWEAR BEING EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS NO MORE INFORMATION THAN IS NORMALLY CONTAINED IN ITS PUBLISHED TRADE STATISTICS.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE CONSUL-GENERAL'S REFERENCE TO 'THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HONG KONG FOOTWEAR TRADE MONITORING SYSTEM', THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS OLIGED TO STATE THAT IT HAS NO RECORD OF ANY INFORMAL AGREEMENT TO MONITOR SUCH EXPORTS. THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS, HOWEVER, AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE HONG KONG CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE FROM THE LATTER DEPARTMENT, COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS OF EXPORT TRADE STATISTICS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR APPEARANCE IN THE PUBLISHED TRADE STATISTICS. THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION OF THE HONG KONG/UNITED STATES
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TRADE IN NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS AND WILL SEND SUCH INFORMATION AS IS AVAILABLE AND OBTAINABLE IN ADVANCE OF THE CONSULTATIONS, IF POSSIBLE.

5. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS, STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1976, 1977 AND 1978 RELATING TO US IMPORTS, THE US MARKET AND US PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR, IN PARTICULAR INFORMATION ON TOTAL US IMPORTS OF NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND ON IMPORTS FROM ALL PRINCIPAL SOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT HAVE ENTERED INTO "ORDERLY MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS" WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

6. AS REGARDS THE TME AND VENUE OF THE CONSULTATIONS, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT REGRETS THAT DUE TO PRIOR NEGOTIATION COMMITMENTS IT IS UNABLE TO AGREE TO THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE 1978. THE HONG KON GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE CONSULTATIONS BE EELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 10 JULY 1978 IN HONG KONG, OR THE WEEK BEGINNING 24 JULY 1978, PREFERABLY

IN HONG KONG.

7. THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS AVAILS
HIMSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO THE CONSUL GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES THE ASSURANCES OF HIS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

12 JUNE 1978

UNQUOTE

COMMENT: THE HKG'S PROPOSED DATES FOR FOOTWEAR CONSULTATIONS
SHOULD BE COORDINATED IF FEASIBLE WITH HK-US BILATERAL TEXTILE
CONSULTATIONS, AS THE SAME HKG OFFICIALS CAN BE EXPECTED TO
TAKE PART IN BOTH SETS OF DISCUSSIONS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO
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KEEP IN MIND THAT CONGEN WILL HOST TWO CODELS (WOLFF AND MANN)
JULY 11 THROUGH 15, WHICH WILL TAX CONGEN RESOURCES HEAVILY.
CONGEN COMMENTS ON SUBSTANCE OF HKG NOTE FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. END
COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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